

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097389

TOSEC 494 ZFF5 JERUSALEM ONLY

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: ACTING SECRETARY RUSH'S DISCUSSION WITH

FRG AMBASSADOR VON STADEN MAY 8

1. FRG AMBASSADOR VON STADEN CALLED ON THE ACTING SECRETARY MAY 8 "WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS" TO ASK FOR US VIEWS ON TIMING AND LEVEL OF CSCE STAGE III.

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2. ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT SOVIETS APPEARED ANXIOUS

TO CONCLUDE STAGE II TALKS IN GENEVA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ON BASKET 1, SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY AGREE EVENTUALLY TO COMPROMISES IN PRINCIPLES DECLARATION SATISFACTORY TO BONN -- PARTICULARLY RE PLACEMENT AND TEXT OF REFERENCE TO PEACEFUL CHANGE OF FRONTIERS. AS FOR BASKET 3, THOUGH SOVIETS HAVE NOT COME VERY FAR TO DATE, THEY MOVE FAST WHEN THEY WISH TO DO SO -- AS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON 1971 BERLIN AGREEMENT. ON TIMING, WE BELIEVE A STAGE III IN JULY IS POSSIBLE. WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE SUMMIT, WE MUST AWAIT COMPLETION OF GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE DECIDING. US WILL CONSULT CLOSELY WITH ALLIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER STAGE II RESULTS JUSTIFY A CSCE SUMMIT.

3. NOTING THAT LATE FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU HAD APPEARED TO DISLIKE IDEA OF CSCE SUMMIT, AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, VON STADEN ASKED WHETHER US HAD ALSO TAKEN A

POSITION IN PRINCIPLE ON THIS. ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED WE HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENTS, BUT WOULD ATTACH POSITIVE VALUE TO SUMMIT, IF RESULTS WARRANT HAVING ONE. VON STADEN REMARKED THAT THIS POSITION COINCIDED WITH THAT OF FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT, BUT ONE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHETHER NEW FRG CHANCELLOR WOULD TAKE SAME VIEW. ACTING SECRETARY POINTED OUT IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS OF POMPIDOU'S SUCCESSOR.

4. VON STADEN WONDERED WHETHER RECENT SETBACKS TO SOVIETS -- AS IN EGYPT -- MIGHT HAVE CAUSED CHANGE IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD CSCE. ACTING SECRETARY SAW SIGNS OF DISCONTENT IN USSR OVER BREZHNEV'S POLITICS OF DETENTE AND THOUGHT SOVIETS CERTAINLY DID NOT WANT TO BE PUSHED OUT OF MIDDLE EAST. HOWEVER, MOSCOW'S ROLE OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN AS ARMS SUPPLIER TO ARABS, AT SAME TIME THAT US HAS SUPPLIED ISRAELIS. SINCE THIS WAS INTRINSICALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION, SOVIETS MAY SEE PERSUASIVE REASONS FOR SUPPORTING CURRENT US EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE AND STABILITY TO MIDDLE EAST. ACTING SECRETARY DOUBTED ALL THIS WOULD HAVE ANY APPRECIABLE EFFECT ON SOVIET LEADERSHIP'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE BUILDING DETENTE IN EUROPE.
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5. VON STADEN ASKED WHETHER A "DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER OUTCOME OF CSCE MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE FUTURE OF DETENTE IN EUROPE. ACTING SECRETARY THOUGHT CSCE FAILURE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON EAST-WEST DETENTE, INCLUDING US-SOVIET RELATIONS. WEAK BASKET 3 RESULTS MIGHT HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW THERE APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE PROSPECT OF OBTAINING

CSCE RESULTS SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED. RUSH

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